The Battle of Thermopylae

Around 480 B.C., it was clear that the Athenians and Persians were the two greatest powers in the world. To the Persians, this was not good so they decided to attack Athens. Their first plan was thwarted, even though they outnumbered the Athenians 2:1. A few years later, Xerxes decided to avenge his father, Darius, loss and attack Athens again. This led to many different battles such as the Battle of [Thermopylae](http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/keyevents/480a_c.html), and the Battle of [Marathon](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/marathon.htm). The latter battle was part of the Darius’ attempt to take over Athens, and led to many heroes like Pheidippes. Eventually, Athens prevailed again and sent the Persians back home.